

BELMONT HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
Belmont Town Hall
October 6, 2005

Present: F. Yuan (Chair); C. Bannon, J. Feins, M. Rawji, D. Ruvolo, S. Shestakofsky, C. Williams

Absent: G. Barry, R. Gibson, C. Morrissey, W. Rudman

Liaisons: Kathryn Bonfiglio (BAR), Lt. Peter Hoerr (Belmont Police Dept.)

1. The Chair called the meeting to order. Stephen Shestakofsky volunteered to take the Minutes.
2. The Minutes of the meeting of September 8, 2005, were approved. There was a discussion regarding the need to maintain separate Minutes for Executive Sessions. Once the issue discussed in Executive Session is resolved, those Minutes are entered into the public record.
3. The Chair announced that the previously agreed upon date for training (October 29, 2005) was not feasible due to the unavailability of the agreed upon training organization (Visions). The Chair will revisit the date with Visions; if the date is still unavailable, the Chair will circulate other proposed dates to the HRC.
4. It was agreed that the review of the draft incident report process would be postponed until a future meeting.
5. The Chair reported that a phone line for the HRC will be set up at Town Hall.
6. A discussion followed regarding organizational liaisons to the HRC. In addition to the liaisons present, the HRC identified liaisons from the following organizations: Belmont Board of Selectmen, Belmont Citizen-Herald, Council on Aging, Belmont High School Gay-Straight Alliance and Diversity and Tolerance Club, Belmont Metco program, Belmont School Department, Belmont Religious Council, Belmont Housing Trust, Belmont Metco parents, Belmont Housing Authority, Belmont Special Education Council, Belmont Disabilities Access Commission, Belmont Youth Commission, and, Belmont-Watertown Chamber of Commerce. It was agreed that members would approach the following additional organizations or individuals: Steve Savarese (realtor), and, Dr. Peter Holland (School Supt.). It was further agreed that the HRC would seek to engage liaisons to a greater extent.
7. The Chair presented the possibility of securing a speaker from the PFLAG/Safe Schools Program. It was agreed that D> Ruvolo would talk with Dr. Holland about participation in the program.

8. The HRC voted to be a sponsor of the annual Belmont Martin Luther King Breakfast event to be held at Belmont High School on January 16, 2006. The Chair and J. Feins agreed to represent the HRC in the event planning process.

9. A lengthy discussion ensued about future activities that the HRC could sponsor. It was suggested that the HRC conduct both “public education/community building” activities, as well as programs targeted to meet specific needs. Among the suggestions raised were: (a) A human rights lecture series, (b) the promotion of existing programs and resources at the school and community levels, (c) communications/outreach with diverse populations – perhaps through a monthly column in the Citizen-Herald, (d) an essay contest for high school and middle school students, (e) a poster contest at the schools, (f) a program focused on bringing the police and the community together. It was agreed that HRC members should bring program ideas for the year ahead to the next meeting. It was further agreed that the Chair would invite a liaison to present to the group at the next meeting.

10. The Committee voted by roll call to go into Executive Session. During Executive Session, the prior Session’s Minutes were approved.

11. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Shestakofsky